



WBSCM

March 2009 WBSCM Update

This month and subsequent months, the FNS WBSCM Newsletter will focus on status updates to the project that specifically affect FNS Internal employees as well as our customers, processors, and warehouses. Items will include progress on the development effort by our contractors, upcoming training and testing schedules, simulations, conference calls, and upcoming conference dates and locations.

Preparation Activities

• System Preparation

Access to WBSCM will be through the internet as ECOS is accessed today. It is highly recommended that you use Internet Explorer version 6 or higher as your browser.

If you import or export information from ECOS to another system, you will need to review the data information changes. These are located on ECOS under the link to ECOS Training/WBSCM. You can also access this information on the FDD website at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/wbscm>.

• User Preparation

- Administrators for each organization should run the ECOS Security Listing Report to review and inactivate users who do not use the application. Active ECOS users will be converted into WBSCM.
- Each WBSCM user must have a USDA eAuthentication ID and password to access the application. Customers and Vendors must have at least a Level 1 ID. Federal Government employees must have eAuthentication Level 2 IDs. eAuthentication information for customers and vendors is available on line by accessing: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>.
- Individual users should review their first name, last name, email, and business address in ECOS for accuracy and make any necessary changes. This information must match what you enter in the USDA eAuthentication registration.

Testing

WBSCM Testing will include participants from all agencies. USDA will work with the various user groups to determine individual testers to assist during the User Acceptance Test (UAT). Selected user groups may be utilized during other stages of testing.

Training

Pre-training activities are currently underway. Training on WBSCM will consist of either Instructor Lead Training (ILT), or eLearning (on line learning both as demonstrations and as self guided training modules) depending on the functionality. Help functionality within the WBSCM application and training documentation that can be used for training groups of people or single individuals will be available.

Training will be based on "roles" that each individual has in the application. Internal USDA training as well as external training will begin in September 2009 and continue until the end of the year. State agencies will be trained starting in September and they will determine the training schedule for their particular recipients and warehouses.

Planned Project Activities and Status for Calendar Year 2009

First Quarter

- Finalize WBSCM data standards (February)
- Finalize SAP COTS configuration (March)
- Develop Communication and Training Strategy (March)



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Second Quarter

- Develop Training Schedules (February-April)
- Develop Training Documentation and Scenarios (February-July)
- Begin Integration Testing (May)

Third Quarter

- Complete development of system interfaces and file upload/download capabilities (July)
- Complete Integration Testing (August)
- Training Database Ready (August)
- Execute User Acceptance Testing (September)
- Execute Internal FNS User Training – FNS Employees (September-December)
- Execute External User Training – Customers, Vendors, National Warehouses (September-December)

Fourth Quarter

- Complete User Acceptance Testing (October)
- Complete USDA Training (December)
- Go Live! (December 31)

What's Next?

This newsletter is the second in a series of communications that will be distributed to help prepare everyone for the implementation of WBSCM. Additionally as WBSCM is developed, FNS will be participating in demonstrations of the functionality referred to as "playbacks". These "playbacks" will be recorded and subsequently shown to applicable groups.

In 2009, as part of the overall effort to get stakeholders ready for WBSCM, we will be discussing and demonstrating WBSCM functionality at industry conferences including:

American Commodity Distribution Association (ACDA), Costa Mesa, CA May 2-6, 2009

National Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) Association, St. Louis, MO May 5-8, 2009

National Association Food Distribution Program Indian Reservations (NAFDPIR), Rapid City, SD June 27-July 3, 2009

School Nutrition Association (SNA), Las Vegas, NV June 29-July 2, 2009

Communicate with FNS – questions, concerns, issues

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